

From: Arthur D Unger
Sent: Sunday, August 01, 2004 5:08 AM
To: Dabbs, Paul
Subject: my comments on Bulletin 160-04, Vol 1, Chapter 3

Dear Mr. Dabbs,

Here are my comments on Bulletin 160-04, Vol 1, Chapter 3

Thank you for this frank evaluation of California's future water needs and profound problems. Your description of the impacts of global warming is timely. I now request additional information.

When evaluating the expected rise in population, please estimate how much water the average person may use. Will inner city apartment dwellers decrease and homes with lawns increase?

Our loss of farmland is even more profound if we are retiring farm land that produces the most food, fiber and jobs per unit water and replacing it with land that uses more water to produce the same yield. Suburban sprawl often retires the best farmland. This chapter mentions this on the bottom of page 16; I hope for more data on "less crop per drop". Kern County seems to be unaware of this issue.

Will salts imported into the San Joaquin Valley by irrigation water end Valley agriculture in a century, unless the salt can be exported? If so, using land that uses more water to produce the same yield as the best current land should end agriculture in less than a century.

I agree that permanent crops have permanent water demands. Dairy cows are a crop that has especially stable water demands. This crop is rapidly increasing in California. Will increased dairies and growing feed for the cows with thirsty crops like alfalfa, increase San Joaquin Valley water use?

California's reservoirs now evaporate 2.4 million acre feet a year. How much will this increase if global warming continues?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Arthur Unger